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FRANK B. POSEY, ROCKPORT, INDIANA
RECOGNITION BY THE EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION, 1933

**[Owned in the 1960s by Miss Myrtle Posey,
319 South 2nd, Rockport, Indiana]**

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BOONVILLE ENQUIRER
Friday, October 6, 1933

POLITICAL GOSSIP

We had quite an interesting talk here the other day with John A. Posey, attorney of Rockport, formerly prosecuting attorney of Spencer and Perry counties. Posey is the only son of the late Frank B. Posey of Petersburg, Evansville and Rockport. Colonel Posey, as he was known to all his friends, was one of the most brilliant men we have ever known. He was in many respects the greatest orator we have ever heard. It was our privilege to read law under Colonel Posey for two years over at Petersburg when we were a young man. In our life time we have heard among other great orators, James G. Blaine, Thos. B. Reed, Carl Schurz, Senator Joe Bailey of Texas, Bourke Cochran, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, James W. Davis, William Jennings Bryan, Henry Watterson, Robert G. Ingersoll, James E. Watson, Senator Albert J. Beveridge and a score of others. But we have never heard a man with such charm of manner, real poetry and music and genuine oratory as that possessed by the late Colonel Posey. He was one of God's gifted sons, inspired as if by celestial fire. He would have graced the United States senate.

The death of Mr. Frank B. Posey, at his residence in Rockport, Sunday afternoon, calls for the action of the Bar of the city of Evansville, in which he spent the greater part of his mature and active life.

He was a lineal descendant of Thomas Posey, First Territorial Governor of Indiana; was born in Petersburg, educated in the schools of that city and Asbury University, later known as DePauw, with law training in the State University at Bloomington. He entered Asbury University in 1864, while a mere boy.

It is said of him that at the age of sixteen and seventeen he showed the extraordinary ability which he exhibited in maturer life; he was then a great reader of solid literature and attracted general attention among the students and professors. He began the practice of law at Petersburg where he practiced for a number of years, and then he moved to Evansville, where he was for the best part of his ~~xxxxxx~~ life active both in law and politics.

He was a man of wide range of information, intelligent on a great variety of subjects, as he continued to be a great reader and observer of events all his life. His remarkable ability was best shown in his addresses in court, to juries, to political conventions and public meetings, as well as upon the lecture platform.

He had a fine voice, was a man of large and commanding presence; a great occasion either in political discussion or in court always aroused him, and called forth great powers. With a strong and musical voice, a wealth of information for illustrations, and faith in the triumph of truth and the right, as well as his own ability to defend them, when the occasion presented itself, he rose to great

heights of oratory, and power in swaying his audiences. His appeals to juries were made in a whirlwind of voice, words ~~and~~ and action, which were at times irresistible. It is said of one of the judges who presided in the courts in which he frequently practiced, that his power over juries was so great that the judge often felt it his duty, in an unusual manner, to intervene, in order to give the opposite party justice. His great gifts were by nature. Success in jury trials did not come to him as with most lawyers, through the channels of great preparation and hard work, but with a minimum of labor and preparation, and where there was a question of fact for a jury, he generally succeeded. He was employed as special counsel in some of the greatest litigation that arose in this section of Indiana, for the purpose of making a ~~closing~~ speech to the jury, where he was not even charged with the details of preparation and management of the trial, and he was always able, by listening to the testimony, to so thoroughly master the strong points of his own case, and the weak points of his adversary, as to make an effective speech when the time arrived.

He was chosen in each political campaign to make the opening address in various ~~towns~~ ^{part of} Indiana and adjoining states. His habits of thought qualified him to outline the opening points of a political campaign in an unusual degree; he was a favorite in some of the ~~xxx~~ most cultured communities in the state of Indiana, as elsewhere, who regularly asked for him to open the campaign, and his most appreciated ^{we} audiences were people of the highest culture.

He was a leader in thought, and ~~xxxxx~~ so much greater than his surroundings in youth, that he learned the habit of self-reliance to an extraordinary extent, -- at times almost to a fault. Taking the period of his life as a whole, no other man in the First Congressional District

occupied a more distinct position as the representative of his party in this section. He was a candidate in Pike County for State Senator, almost as soon as he came of age.

He moved to Evansville about twenty-five years ago, where he formed a law partnership with Judge H. A. Mattison, and was associated with him and Mr. A. J. Clark, and later with DeWitt Q. Chappell.

His political services were recognised by his party when he was appointed Surveyor of the local port about ten years ago, upon which he practically gave up the law practice. He retired from that office about two years ago, when the office was removed to Terre Haute, and he recently moved to Rockport where he formed a law partnership with Fred A. Heuring and his son, John Posey, under the name of Posey, Heuring & Posey. Less than a year ago he started a Republican paper at Owensboro, Ky., known as "The Owensboro News", meanwhile residing at Rockport. He lived on what is called The Bluff at Rockport, one of the highest elevations in southern Indiana.

He made three races for Congress, and was once elected and served a portion of a term as successor to Governor Hovey, who resigned his position in Congress to make the race for Governor.

Mr. Posey was at various times candidate for Attorney General, for Governor and Senator, in the Republican conventions and Legislature, but was never able to make a combination sufficient to secure the nomination to any of those positions.

Mr. Posey delivered a lecture entitled "Why God Don't Kill the Devil".

He belonged to the Masonic, Odd Fellows, Elks and Knights of Pythias lodges at Petersburg, and was a member of the Methodist and Episcopal Church.

When "The Standard", a daily morning paper was established in Evansville, during the Administration of President Harrison, Mr. Posey took charge of the paper and was its chief editorial writer for a considerable ~~xxxxxx~~ period.

As a friend, Mr. Posey was loyal and true, and strong in his personal attachment to his friends. No man in this section had more friends and a larger acquaintance, throughout the Congressional District, or the state, or this section of the country, than has had Mr. Posey during the period of his active life.

Resolved that
The Evansville Bar recognizes in his death a loss to the profession and its members feel a sense of deep personal loss, and we extend to his widow, son and daughters, our heart-felt sympathy.

J. E. Ireland
Dr. H. L. Chappell
Dr. Givens
W. W. W. W. W.
W. A. Cunningham

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